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VOL. IX.—NO. 19.

The People.

HENRY KUHN, Nat'l Sec'y, S.L.P.



NEW YORK, AUGUST 6, 1899.

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THE STRICKEN SOUTH.

Run up the S. L. P. and S. T. & L. A. Banners to the Mast-head, Workers, and Fall to Everywhere!

ATLANTA, GA., July 20.—The sensation created by the report of City Warden Hunter to the City Council recently to the effect that he was daily called upon to furnish the means of sustenance to cotton mill wage slaves in Atlanta, has been followed up by a full investigation of the condition of affairs at the mills. This investigation shows that, while many have been helped by the city, hundreds more are in dire distress, and are given no help. To add to this awful condition of affairs, on Saturday night, July 15th, at midnight, 400 operatives at the Fulton Cotton Mills were discharged and notice of eviction was served on them, from the company's houses, to take effect July 22nd.

The Fulton Mills recently started a night run; advertised for workers, and brought them here from as far as Texas; many of the night workers were children; they were required to go to work at 6 p. m., and work till 6 a. m.—12 hours. The children couldn't stand it; many of them fell asleep at midnight, standing at the machines; and because these people could not work like engines they were suddenly discharged, and ordered to get out of the Company's houses. Not only are they thrown out of doors, but everything they made as wages had been stolen from them by the Capitalist thieves. The 400 starving slaves will, no doubt, now be used to displace those now working elsewhere, if it is possible to cut wages any lower. Not only has this concern robbed labor of all it could, but it secured exemption from the payment of taxes for twenty years to the city, on the plea that it would invest big capital here.

The week before last, a mother and four daughters, living in one of the mill houses on Richard street, were taken sick through lack of sufficient food. After being out of the mill three days, they were sent for to return to work, but were unable to go. Then they were ordered to vacate the house. Two of them being in bed sick, and having no other place to move in, of course could not comply with the order. A special officer of the Mill then appeared on the scene, and, carrying out instructions of the company, moved them out into the street, carrying one girl out on a mattress. They remained on the street for three days, sick and helpless, before their distress was relieved and a shelter provided for them by some of the mill workers.

Another mill worker had a finger smashed in the machinery. A fellow workman was assisting him to dress it when the superintendent fined him for stopping work, whereupon the man called for his time and walked out. There are more of similar cases that occur daily. Exorbitant rent is charged for the miserable huts called houses owned by the company: two rooms, costing \$5 a month. The average rent in the big pig-pen, called "the hotel," of eighty rooms, is sixty cents a room per week, and, as all this is subtracted from the pay of the operatives, and they are forced to occupy the houses at the terms of the Company, it is one of their big sources of profit. They practically get their work for nothing, and, as they pay no taxes to the city, are amassing immense wealth through this robber capitalist system. It is the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills I have been talking about.

Now, I'll go across town to the Exposition Cotton Mills, and, ye gods and little fishes! listen!

The Exposition Mills, the President of which was for some time President of the Atlanta Charity Association, are on Marietta street, about two miles from the center of the city. The mills, two in number, employ about 1,500 men, women and children, whose ages range from nine to sixty years. They exist in huts owned by the Company; their provisions are purchased from the Company's commissary; they must obey all the rigid rules laid down by the Company, and are as much part and parcel of the great machine as the shuttles and looms.

The "homes" are mainly two-room affairs, many of them at present being old and dilapidated. These houses were, a few years ago, only boards thrown together, with wide cracks between, through which the snow and rain drifted, and are little better now. The best of the "houses" rent for \$2.25 per month, while the older ones bring a dollar less. The squalor, filth, bad ventilation, and unsanitary condition of these houses present a sorry picture. At the rear of one row of houses is a large pool of stagnant water, with a thick coating of green slime over the entire surface. This miasmatic pond is infinitely suggestive of malaria and typhoid fever, and its presence is enough to contaminate the entire neighborhood. Many of the "houses" are built over ditches, in which foul water stands the year round. Quite a number of families are so crowded for space that three or more beds are put in one room, the shameless huddling together of the sexes which is thus entailed, being easier imagined than described. In fact, one of the saddest features of this squalid colony is the total absence of anything like privacy; its effect in degrading and brutalizing the unfortunate people is plainly to be seen. They seem to be sunk in hopeless misery and poverty.

The average pay of a wage-slave at the Exposition Cotton Mills is 40 cents for a day of twelve hours. Many make much less, and there are grown men and women who are paid less than 40 cents. The children, many of whom are from 6 to 10 years of age, get from nine to twenty-five cents a day. The majority of the Exposition Mill hands have the pathetic homeliness of poverty. They show in their cadaverous faces the lack of good food, good air and proper sanitation, and most of them wear that dull and apathetic look noticeable among wage-slaves who have been crushed to a point beyond resistance. They seem to have settled down to a listless resignation, and, since the lash of Capitalism keeps them in ignorance, it is a hard matter to make them understand that they can help themselves. The Mill settlement swarms with children of all ages and sizes, and most of them are wretchedly dirty and unkempt. It must be borne in mind, of course, that the mothers of these children are usually hard at work in the Mill from daylight to dark. In fact, everybody in the family who is large enough to stand is obliged to work in order to make enough to exist on, and the little ones (babies) have to look after themselves as best they may. A woman who has toiled twelve hours over a furnace hasn't much energy left for her household duties.

It costs \$48 to make a bale of cotton in the Mill into cloth, counting labor and all, for which the Capitalist Mill owner receives \$190, thus giving to the Capitalist a profit, ground out of labor, of \$142.

What a Klondike for the capitalists is the cotton industry in the South!

The Southern papers have for several years flooded their columns with advice to the New England Cotton Mills to move South, always emphasizing the fact that labor was so much cheaper here—about 60 per cent.; that the laborers were so happy and contented that they would mob a labor agitator who came among them; that they loved their capitalist masters so much that they worked longer hours and more hours in a week for them than the workers anywhere else, and, besides, they always went to the Mill Church on Sunday morning, of which the Mill owner is also the owner, and listened to the beautiful sermon of the capitalist-hired minister, who never forgot to conclude his sermon with a reminder that they should be happy, no matter what condition they were in, and that their poverty in this life was necessary to prepare them for happiness in the next.

When the New England capitalists heard, through the newspapers, of the feast that Cotton Mill capitalists were having in the South, they sent a committee of their number here to see if it was true; but about that time some Socialist agitators came South, too, and, while the investigation was proceeding, lo and behold! what happened? A big strike at the Fulton Cotton Mills, in Atlanta! The Mill slaves were organizing, when a number of them were discharged and supplanted by negro labor, because it was cheaper and unorganized. Thereupon the entire force of Mill workers struck, and, after being out several days, won the strike, although the active participants in the strike were later discharged and their union crippled. But while the strike was in progress, the Executive Committee of the strikers issued a manifesto to the people, and this manifesto is such a strong indictment against capitalism that it is herewith reproduced:

MANIFESTO OF THE STRIKERS ISSUED BY TEXTILE UNION.

The Strikers Declare they are not Fighting the Negroes, but are Contending Only for Their Rights—Plain Talk About the Mill Owners.

To Whom it May Concern:

We, the employees of the Fulton Cotton Mills, herewith present to the public the following conditions which will put an end to this present controversy. Notwithstanding the fact that these 1,400 wage-workers, composed mostly of women and children, have for years been compelled to have their flesh and blood counted in dollars and cents by the mill owners, owing to excessively long hours of work and starvation wages, they are still subjected to such indignities as would melt the demotion of every loyal white citizen of Atlanta, and also of the majority of self-respecting black citizens.

The efforts of the Fulton mill owners to force the white women and girls employed to work for the negro women who were placed among them in a deliberate attempt to eliminate the white wage-slaves from this avocation and substitute black wage-slaves, because they will work cheaper, although the white wage-slaves do not live but simply exist.

The real question at issue now is one of wages and not of prejudice. The mill owners know that the white workers are organizing and becoming more intelligent, and they are making an effort to keep them in subjection by employing cheaper labor and forcing the white workers out of employment. The large dividends declared by the cotton mill proprietors to their stockholders, which is to say, not good wages and still make good profits, but their desire to acquire great wealth at the cost of human life blinds them to all acts of fairness, and they adopt methods which degrade manhood, prostitute womanhood and debase childhood.

The published accounts of the controversy do not apply to the public that it is a strike originating in racial prejudice, but such is not the case. It is a strike against the introduction of cheaper labor; against forcing those people out of work; against holding the wages for years, and against the damage to the cotton industry of Atlanta on the bodies and souls of the daughters and sons of the fair southland.

The cotton workers are simply fighting an intelligent battle for the right to live: the right to work, and receive for that work living wages.

We realize that under the system of competitive capitalism conditions cannot be permanently improved, and that this system must be supplanted by a co-operative system in which all shall have the opportunity to apply their labor power properly, before permanent relief can come to the people.

We call the attention of the people to the fact that the Messrs. Elias are endeavoring to divert public opinion from the real question at issue, and to make it appear that we are not justified in opposing at the present time, their efforts to dispense with what would prove to be within a short time cheaper labor.

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential).....	2,065
In 1890.....	13,831
In 1892 (Presidential).....	21,157
In 1894.....	33,133
In 1896 (Presidential).....	86,564

In 1898 82,204

All the past we leave behind,
We debase upon a newer, mightier world,
varied world;
Fresh and strong the world we seize, world
of labor and we march,
Pioneers! O, Pioneers!

WALT WHITMAN.

TO READERS AND COMRADES.—Take notice that the inscription "Henry Kuhn, Nat'l Sec'y, S. L. P." is inserted on the front page of THE PEOPLE, immediately under the title, to the right of the date. The insertion is made, and will continue to stand until further notice, in order to enable the reader, at first glance, to distinguish the Party organ from the counterfeit article that the "Volkzeitung" reactionists are attempting to cheat the public with.—Carry the news to Mary!

THE VOICE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The State Central Committee of Massachusetts adopted and issued the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, In the necessary and natural development of the Socialist movement each step of progress is made the scene of battle between the progressive and retrogressive forces within the Party, and on the surface this conflict appears as personal antagonism, as a bitter struggle for supremacy between the so-called leaders, and to this day men insist that the great momentum in society of 60 years ago, consequent upon the introduction of steam as a motive power a century earlier, was a personal conflict between Marx and Bakunin.

"WHEREAS, The evolution of the social organism can but express itself through men by word and deed, the part that men play must be viewed from the social rather than the personal standpoint; harmony is an equilibrium of forces, a standstill; in harmony is activity necessary for the adjustment of forces of higher potential, and the words of men when translated into action are for or against the next step in social well-being.

"WHEREAS, The comprehension of this great principle enables us to clearly view the crisis through which we are passing, with New York at the revolutionary center, this crisis being the culminating point in establishing Socialism upon a basis native to this country; be it, therefore,

"RESOLVED, That we support with added zeal the efforts of our Comrades, Daniel De Leon and Hugo Vogt, editors of our official organ; Henry Kuhn, Secretary National Executive Committee; Lucien Sandal, Charles H. Matchett, Arthur Kepp, A. Brown, Patrick Murphy and J. J. Kineally, members of the National Executive Committee; Lazarus Abelson and such other New York Comrades as stand in the forefront of the battle now being waged for correct enunciation of socialist economics, the indisputable position upon the taxation question, and for the imperative social demand for the S. T. & L. A.

"RESOLVED, That we unconditionally deny all statements and communications purporting to be official in the "Volkzeitung" issue of THE PEOPLE for July 16, 1899, and that we refuse to entertain any correspondence purporting to be official emanating from its source; be it finally

"RESOLVED, That we hail with joy our own edition of THE PEOPLE for July 16, 1899, which has been, and now is, so great a factor in educating the American proletariat in the science and conduct necessary to guide Socialist enthusiasm into channels of benefit to our country."

THEY START IN EARLY.

At this season, when all over the country strikes are breaking out; when the dumb proletariat is blindly striking about, and not infrequently sold out by its miscreant leaders, an incident is recorded that sheds much light, not on the perverseness of pure and simpledom only, but especially upon its widespread demoralizing effect.

Among the divisions of Labor in rebellious posture during the last week or two, the most sympathetic was that of the newsboys. They were on strike against two types of the Capitalist class: against the new millionaire, "Hungry Joe" of the "World," and the born millionaire, Hearst, of the "Journal." These social waifs—who, ill-clad and worse fed and housed, have been spending their lung-power in rain and sunshine, in snow and sleet, and in the broiling heat, running their little feet off to eke out a miserable pittance, while the above-named millionaires were raking in the shekels out of these starvelings' marrow and life-blood—struck their little blow. But puny as the blow was bound to be from these children, it

acquired a swing and force that none other of the present strikes could boast of. A positive public opinion steeled and nerved the youngsters; their cry and their demands called forth a positive response from the public heart, beating strongly under a public vest. When the valuable public sentiment was at its height, it was suddenly pricked. Treason broke out among the leaders of the newsboys. And what treason!

One of them, in genuine political fakir style, tried to reach prominence at the expense of his fellows, in the politicians' eyes; with the expectation of gaining "political pull;" he was promptly turned down; but hardy was this danger averted, when a new one, and even a greater one, followed. Two of the leaders are now under ball under charges of blackmail and extortion. The affidavits for their arrests set forth that last Monday they went to the office of Patrick T. Duff, a "World" representative, and offered for the sum of \$600 to call off the strike from Yorkville to the Borough of the Bronx, stating that, "if they did not get the money, they would make the strike stronger than ever, as they could get money to carry it on from some of the opposition dailies which were being benefited by the strike,"—all in the approved pure and simple labor fakir style.

These newsboys' leaders begin early. Their minds, poisoned by the miasmas of the putrid movement that has for years been called the "Labor Movement," can conceive of no greater "cleverness" than the "cleverness" of the adult fakir, who allows himself to be used as a tool by the Capitalists in their competitive struggles with one another, and is ever ready to sell out his fellows, who place confidence in him, to either or both of the Capitalist concerns to whom he is willing to be a cat's-paw.

Capitalism, and its first-born, fakirism, are rotten ripe for the mud-scow.

"TEN-HOUR CRIMINALS."

Despite the disastrousness, for the workers, of the recent trolley-men's strike in Greater New York, the capitalist forces of the land seem decidedly incommodeed by one of the slogans that the strike gave rise to:—"Ten-Hour Criminals." From New York, as far West as Chicago, the slogan is being written on, commented on, and attempted to be perverted by the capitalist dailies, with a unanimity and insistence that are significant.

The ten-hour day is a law in New York for railway employees; it is one of the "Labor Laws" of the State; it was enacted expressly for the purpose of protecting the workingman; the law was simply brazenly violated—by whom?—by the companies, of course. "Ten-Hour Criminals" was, accordingly, a groan that went up naturally from the breasts of the stricken workingmen when, instead of the law-breaking companies being hauled over the coals, the strikers found THEMSELVES roiling in the dust under the blows of the policemen's clubs. The charge, hurled at the companies in particular, went home and has been felt by the whole Capitalist class; hence their mouthpieces feel constrained to meet it; and they do in such manner that it were money in their pockets if they had left it alone.

"Anglo-Saxon Legislation," a term with which the Capitalist papers seek to intellectually brow-beat the workers, in whose hearts the slogan, "Ten-Hour Criminals," is reverberating, can afford no consolation to those papers or the class they stand for. It is not true that "Anglo-Saxon Legislation," as those papers claim, "throws upon each individual the full responsibility for his acts." "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" is not the stupidity that the stupid-criminal Capitalist class' lackeys would make it out; nor yet is it the barbarity that these gentlemen would imply it to be. "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" knew Human Nature, and it is upon Human Nature that it built the elaborate superstructure of its "Public Policy" theory, together with all the supplemental legislation raised thereon. "Anglo-Saxon Legislation," knowing Human Nature, recognized the fact that individuals there were who, owing to their occupation or other circumstances, were exposed to imposition and needed protection, and that "Public Policy" required the shield of Society to be held over them. Accordingly, to quote just two instances, taken one each from vastly distant ranks in the social ladder, "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" held the Aegis of the Law over sailors and seamen, on the one hand, and over public officials, on the other.

The sailor and seaman, strong and robust, intelligent and quick-witted though he is proverbially, is, in a ready prey to the shark ashore; his pursuit, the sea, disables him from competition with the wiles of the land-man; he is unsophisticated; in their hands he is like a child. "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" did not "throw upon him the full responsibility for his acts;" it came to their assistance and protected them by law, the neglect of which had to be borne, not by them in common with the other fellow, but by the other fellow exclusively.

Public officials, influential though they were, and in so far powerful, suffered from a special weakness; their office exposed them to expenditures that

they could ill afford. "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" did not "throw upon them the full responsibility for their acts; it came to their assistance and protected them by law, the neglect of which had to be borne, not by them in common with the other fellow, but by the other fellow exclusively."

In the one case, as in the other, the throwing of the full responsibility of their acts upon the classes mentioned was considered contrary to "Public Policy," and, what is more, the principle prevails even to-day, although the public official's status has improved marvelously. Based upon a sense of the knowledge of Human Nature, of a feeling of justice and right, "Anglo-Saxon Legislation" helped the weak. "Labor Laws" are but an off-shoot of the principle.

The working class, owing to the conditions that prevail, cannot have "thrown upon it the full responsibility for their acts;" to do so were inhuman, consequently, contrary to "Public Policy." Wholly dependent upon the Capitalist class for a living, and whipped to sell themselves for a living by the scourge of WANT, humane legislation, "Public Policy," "Anglo-Saxon Legislation," if you please, peremptorily demands that, while such conditions prevail, the workingman shall be shielded against his extorters, aye, against himself, against the weakness of his status. This is unquestionably the principle at the bottom of "Labor Legislation." It is, accordingly, stupid, and it is as criminal as it is stupid, to invoke "Anglo-Saxon Legislation," as the Capitalist papers are now doing, in favor of the theory that if the Ten-Hour law is violated, then, not the employer only, but the employee also is guilty; "both are criminals;" and, "if the former is punished, the latter should be punished also."

Capitalist Society has torn loose from all the moorings of human feelings raised by the wisdom of the ages. On the ocean of the world's history, it has become a derelict, that, the sooner it is despatched to the bottom, the better.

John N. Parsons is making sad experience. First, the Republican Stock Exchange "bears" through the Republican Postmaster, get him to start a strike on the Metropolitan traction lines; and, thereupon, the Democrats pull the strings tied to their fakirs in the Tammany Hall Prince's Central Fakirated Union, and Parsons' strikers' union is sat down upon and pronounced a union on paper.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

The New York "Sun" styles the New York "Labor Convention," called to meet on August 7, to nominate candidates for judicial offices only

A project of foolishness of which none but incorrigible agitators would be capable.

Not so!

"Foolish" indeed, were the idea of really seeking to protect the working class by electing judges only; however powerful judges are to-day, however hard and unconsciously they press upon the working class, their power for mischief is not inherent in THEM; it is a reflex of the power for mischief that is centered elsewhere, to wit, in the Legislatures; without a Democratic Republican capitalist Legislature, the judiciary would be impotent, for the simple reason that the Legislature has the constitutional power to impeach the judges; with a Legislature that at any moment could hurl them from the bench into civic infamy, the judges would mind their p's and q's; without such Legislature, and especially with one of their own ilk, they can, of course, do what they do with impunity. Accordingly, to capture the judiciary only, and leave the Legislature and the Executive in the hands of the bandit Republican-Democratic class is like paring the claws of the tiger. "Incorrigible agitators," indeed, were the Utopians who conceived and trusted in such a measure for the relief of labor.

But the project is neither "foolish" nor its promoters "incurrigible agitators." "Foolish" acts are usually unintentional; "Incurrigible agitators" are usually well-intentioned wool-gatherers. The project is rascally, and its promoters are the regulation fakirs.

The Hoboken, N. J., "Observer," in commenting upon a decision of the local court, the purpose of which is to deprive the Socialist Labor Party of the use of the streets for public meetings, and in that way limit its opportunities for agitation or throw money into the hands of hall proprietors for rent of halls, says naïvely:

The police force is maintained by municipalities at the public cost to preserve order and protect life and property. Anything that may tend to obstruct them in the exercise of their duties or to render those duties more difficult or dangerous, if wilful, is an offense against municipal government.

Another question, and one of equal importance, is the right of the public to the free and unrestricted use of the streets. It is scarcely necessary to state that the streets are supposed to be open to the general public without classification or distinction of any kind and in all well-regulated cities ordinances exist dealing with just such matters.

Here we have a slingin' about of big words: "Municipality," the "rights of the public," "obstruction of public thoroughfares," etc., and their use in the capitalist class sense.

What is the municipality but the working class? What is the police force maintained by if not the working class?

Can the municipality obstruct itself? Ridiculous!

A WARNING.

That the dust raised by recent events in New York should confuse many at present is natural; indeed, that's part of the purpose of the dust-raising. As the dust settles, much that is unclear now to some will become clear enough of itself. Nevertheless, there is one subject, and one of much importance to sympathizers as well as Comrades, upon which it were well to dispel the dust as soon as possible. That subject concerns the National Executive Committee.

The matter presents itself in two aspects.

With the growth of the Party, a natural desire has arisen to elect the National Executive Committee in such a manner as to render it more NATIONAL. The desire had already been formulated into two concrete propositions, one emanating from Boston, another from Minneapolis; and the recent turmoil in New York, entrusted at present with the responsibility of electing, etc., the National Executive Committee, has given fresh impetus to the desire for some other system. Indeed, the question is now frequently heard: Does not this New York row prove that the present system of electing the National Executive Committee is wrong?

It is not our province, nor is it our purpose here, to venture an opinion upon the wisdom or lack of wisdom of changing the system. Our purpose upon this point is to clear away a misconception, which, if it take root, may seriously interfere with the adoption of a possible good new plan: the best of plans if supported by wrong arguments will suffer in discussion; and it cannot but be the unanimous wish of all the Comrades to have the National Executive Committee elected in the best, the safest way possible.

The belief that the recent turmoil through which New York has gone is proof positive that a new system has become imperative, is a belief that proceeds from a false comprehension of what it is that did happen; it proceeds from a false, dangerously false, comprehension of the cause of the present disturbances throughout the whole Party. It is a dangerously false comprehension of the case, because the real cause being overlooked, it may continue, or reappear at some later time.

The circumstance that the National Executive Committee is now elected by one city, in this City of Greater New York, had, when closely examined, nothing whatever to do with the case. The cause of the shock that the Party has received is, exclusively, the circumstance that the mechanism of the circulation of its national organs was wholly OUTSIDE of the Party's hands, was left wholly IN the hands of an organization that, being an incorporated body, could, dishonorably, of course, yet effectively, for a time defy the Party. In possession of this mechanism—the paper's mail list, P. O. permit for second class matter, advanced subscriptions, books, etc.—the Publishing Company was enabled to be ahead of the Party several days, to spread its startling "news" from one end of the country to the other, and to throw the Party into confusion and consternation for some little time. Had it not been for this circumstance, neither would the rumpus in New York have had any more effect or significance than the recent troubles in Cincinnati or Milwaukee, nor, and this is much more to the point, would THE KANGAROOS HAVE DARED THEIR ILLEGAL STROKE.

Armed, however, with the weapon that the Party had entrusted them with, they felt themselves strong, and imagined themselves omnipotent; indeed, their power waned, until it has now become simply impotent hysterics, in the measure that THE PEOPLE reached the comrades, and thus the Party's voice was again heard. From that moment on, the ship straightened up again gradually.

Now then, whatever other system of electing the National Executive Committee be adopted, nothing can prevent a dishonorable organization (should it ever again find itself in external possession, according to law, of the mechanism of distribution of Party papers) from seizing upon them, and again attempting a coup d'état against the Party, as the Kangaroos have recently done.

A secondary point, closely connected with the above is this other, that should serve as a warning against the dangerous illusion so prevalent in many minds, that wrong can be wholly guarded against by constitutional provisions. It is admitted by the Kangaroos that they proceeded unconstitutionally; their argument, like ten years ago, is that there was no time to spare, "something had to be done quickly," etc., why they pride themselves in having proceeded revolutionary. Against such behavior there is no such thing possible as effective constitutional guarantees. Despite all law to the contrary, murder and fraud and house-breaking flourish.

No change imaginable in the method of electing the National Executive Committee can render the Party safe against either of these two closely linked together evils: they can be prevented only by keeping the Party press in the safest way possible, and by promptly, energetically, relentlessly stepping upon the head of Treason and crushing it. There is no other way.

There is a second aspect in which the master presents itself. From the sorrow into which the Publishing Association plunged our membership through out the land flows another serious mistake, a mistake that is natural, but that it is important to guard against, lest the Party play into the hands of its unallowed enemies. From several sources the cry now comes to take the seat of the National Executive Committee immediately from New York. If the cry came only from the few spots where latent treason has been unmasked, it would deserve no notice; but it comes, tho' not from numerous, yet from several honorable sources, and the Kangaroos are seeking to fructify the feeling.

Again be it understood that neither under this head is it our purpose to enter the lists in favor of or against any Section. Our purpose is another.

The membership of the Party cannot decide the truthfulness or untruthfulness of the bulk of the charges and counter charges brought. Nothing short of a judicial investigation could, and

upon that fact do the gentlemen of the Publishing Association rely for immunity. But neither is a decision upon the bulk of these charges and counter charges needed. Certain facts stick out like peaks over a deluged field. These facts need no judicial investigation to establish them; they are partly admissions and partly Party documents.

1. The Party constitution provides clearly that ALL the Sections located in the city that is chosen as the seat of the National Executive Committee, elect by general vote the National Executive Committee, and, if they see fit, suspend it in the same manner and submit their action to the referendum of the whole Party; the National Convention chose the City of Greater New York as the seat of the National Executive Committee, and that action was unanimously ratified by a general vote; since then three elections for National Executive Committee have taken place, besides a number of bye-elections to fill vacancies; at each such election all of the many Sections located within the territory of Greater New York participated by general vote, and each time the tabulated returns were reported in the Party's organs, THE PEOPLE and the "Vorwärts." All these are matters known to be facts by our membership, and, if they have slipped the memory of any, can be easily verified.

2. The gentlemen who undertook to suspend the National Executive Committee ADMIT that they were, at best, only the General Committee of one Section. All questions as to whether they or the supporters of the National Executive Committee were or were not the majority at the General Convention; as to whether this or that side started disturbances, etc., etc., are merely confusionary and irrelevant. The "suspension" proceedings were illegal, revolutionary so, according to the "suspenders" own admission.

3. The attempted answer of the Association to THE PEOPLE'S "Sign Posts" article of last April 2, an answer

THE MERRY WAR

That Has been Going on in Gotham.

"Well," said Herr Tossofastein, "how are things getting along in the S. L. P.?" "It is all running smoothly; they are making headway," replied Mr. Collateral Hawkins.

"Let us then get excited about something."

"Not just now. I have been reading Marx. Ah, there was a mind. There was a great man."

"He was a grand man," said Tossofastein jealously, "because I lived after him and many of my countrymen have read his book."

"Not so, not so," said Mr. Hawkins, warmly. "He was not great because he wrote a book, but because he was of my race."

"I believe he is a sun-myth, the same as Shakespeare, and that Ignatius Donnelly wrote 'Capital'."

"Have you ever read it?"

"I have been a Socialist fifty years."

"Yes, you have been a Socialist so long that you have forgotten what it means."

"And you came into the Party because you didn't know any better."

"You are trying to make Socialism obvious."

"You are a liar."

"Ah, yes. You should keep your shirt."

"That is the matter with him," wailed Mr. Hawkins, "he won't take it off."

The tenacity of old habits explained to some degree the reasons which lead Mr. Hawkins to try so constantly to defend the indefensible.

"I can say on the highest possible authority," he said very soberly and earnestly, "that Socialism will not succeed until we adapt ourselves to conditions which never can exist."

Mr. Tossofastein looked at him in admiration. "Who is your authority for that statement?"

"Who is? I myself am."

"That is true. Now, Mr. Porter, of Mass., the S. D. P. candidate for Governor, has worked the whole problem out. Here it is: The most nutritious of all foods is the egg. A hen weighs 1-40 as much as a man. Therefore, she requires 1-40 as much food. Ten eggs a day would sustain life in a human being, so 1-4 of one egg would be all a hen would require. A hen lays an egg a day. We could make the thing much more simple if we gave it one egg in four days, keeping three for ourselves. Then, the hen, educate it, give it opportunity for expansion, allow it to develop its facilities, make it take the water-cure, and behold—we have the hen laying four, five, ten eggs a day, and yet through its own wonderful 'Volkszeitungized' internal economy, producing all these eggs by eating one in four days. Wonderful. The problem is solved. Man may now rest and gain his higher nature, pay his taxes, form Y. M. C. A.'s and play Post-Office."

"Does Carey approve of it? Will he allow it?"

"Save us and bless us," shrieked Mrs. Hawkins, rushing in. "Comrade Stahl has swallowed his head."

The men started up in dismay.

"Oh, what a misfortune," moaned Hawkins. "It will poison him, and he had a hat on for which he did not pay me. Two dollars gone. This is the honor of Socialist."

This is the solidarity of which you talk. This is a spirit of class-consciousness to deprive a hard-working man of his money. I will start a party of my own, and I dare anyone to join it. It was a fine hat, and he got it four sizes too large for him. It was a number seven hat, and he might grow to it, but I will expropriate the expropriator."

"But don't you see, don't you see? He will be just the man to run for office. He will have to trouble his head about nothing. Let the eagle scream," shouted Tossofastein.

That festive bird, the eagle, screams most to the purpose and with best results when it is contained in one of those strange and mysterious glass receptacles from Kentucky, always labelled "Full Quart." The eagle screamed throughout the night, and, like the oracle, it screamed with human life.

As morning dawned, Mr. Slobodinoffsky rushed in, and, falling exhausted in a chair, exclaimed, "It was attempted to be that it should happen."

His Comrades gazed on him in horror.

Few of them could believe his words were true. He then went on to say that one man pointed at those present and said the Lord's Prayer, "and other rabid talk." This indecency was followed up by the enemy dangerously and violently assaulting them with "cigar" sticks. It was quite evident from all this that an attempt would be made to drive from the S. L. P. all those who did not believe in its principles and tactics, and that no mercy would be shown to those who only staid in to cause trouble.

Mr. Hilkowitch arose with the intention of placing all sin on a legal basis: "I fear, Comrades, that we may win, and if we win and are right, what shall we do then? If we have the dictators fast onto our shoulders all the necessary work which we have always opposed, then we can no longer point proudly at ourselves being abused. What shall we do if our role of martyrdom is gone? Look at poor Winckowski and poor Hoehn. They sing to the moon and they bay at the terrors, but no man will do them the good of even kicking them—they once stood in trade. We must not win, but we must see that the unknown with whom we are beaten into fury, so we can stand aside and point out the injustice which is being done to them, and profit by it. Be legal—but be wrong."

The others then told about their maltreatment. They were, much to their anger, allowed the floor, and, after they had bellowed for three hours, seeing that they were not allowed a hearing," withdrew. Mr. Slobodinoffsky then violently "struck the last hour" when it was not looking, and he and his men left the hall.

The effects of this news was startling.

One Comrade even fainted at the mouth so that they were forced to tap him.

A spirit of revenge animated those present, and Hilkowitch and Feigen schwartz, having armed themselves to the teeth with springing shoes, urged an attack. Led on by these two, they proceeded to respect all laws, excepting those of grammar. Tired at last of fighting, they withdrew, and when they

recovered from their dare one of their number went to look at the enemy. He returned tired and disheartened. There was nothing in sight excepting a stone wall.

F. M.
Stoneham, Mass.

Signs of the Times.

At the Cooper Union trolley-strikers' meeting of the 18th ultimo, the following resolutions were handed to the chairman by a comrade in the audience: "WHEREAS, The working class, seeking through economic struggles to better their condition, comes ever in conflict with the fact that the governing powers belong to their opponents, and "WHEREAS, When they strike, it is not the capitalist as capitalist that overthrows them but the capitalist under the disguise of government, it being in the last analysis the municipal police, the national and state troops and the courts that conquer them; and

"WHEREAS, The condition of the working class can never be permanently benefited nor even temporarily improved as long as the wage system continues, and private ownership in the means of living prevails; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That while endorsing the Brooklyn trolley men in their strike against unjust conditions, we at the same time recommend to them to strike also at the ballot box on election day armed with the class-conscious ballot of the SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of wage slavery and the substitution therefore of the common ownership of the land and all the means of production, distribution and transportation."

The chairman, John N. Parsons, who conducted and mismanaged the strike, received and read the resolution to the audience. He little expected the finale, and when he got so far he could not very well stop; the audience was cheering every sentence and broke out into wild applause at the close. Parsons, however, did not put the resolution to a vote. He dared not, knowing it would be carried.

How to Organize Sections.

All persons dissatisfied with present political and economic conditions, and who believe that the land, water works, gas works, telephone and telegraph lines, the commercial highways on land and sea, with all their appurtenances and equipments; all the mills, mines, factories, machinery, means of production and agencies of distribution, created by the efforts of the laboring class through all the centuries of the past, ought to be nationalized, and operated for the benefit of collective humanity, and who are convinced that the dispossessed producing class can and must transform the capitalistic methods of production and distribution into a social and co-operative system, are hereby invited to identify themselves with the Socialist Labor party, which alone goes to the root of our social and economic evils.

1 Any ten persons may organize themselves into a Section provided they accept the platform and constitution of the S. L. P. and sever their connection absolutely, with all other political parties.

2. OFFICERS TO ELECT.

1.—Organizer.
2.—Recording and Corresponding Secretary.
3.—Financial Secretary.

4.—Treasurer.

5.—Literary Agent.
6.—Chairman, each meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1.—Reading of minutes.
2.—New members.
3.—Correspondence.
4.—Financial Report.
5.—Report of Organizer.
6.—Report of Committees.
7.—Unfinished Business.
8.—New Business.

4. There shall be no initiation fee charged. Amount of monthly dues is fixed by each Section. A monthly remittance of ten cents per member shall be made to the National Executive Committee.

5.—A full report of the first meeting, including a list of members, with enclosure of ten cents per capita is necessary to obtain a charter.

6. Per capita checks are furnished by the National Executive Committee at 10 cents each; such checks are pasted in monthly column on the membership card, and charged to members at such excess rate as will cover the amount of dues fixed by the Section.

7. Each Section shall hold a regular business meeting at least once a month, and semi-monthly meetings for public discussion or lectures on political or economic questions.

8. Quarterly reports of the numerical strength and financial standing of members, party progress and prospects, shall be promptly sent to the National Executive Committee.

9. Any person residing in a city or town where no section of the party exists may make direct application to the National Secretary, inclosing one month's dues, and will thus be enrolled as member at large.

For pamphlets, leaflets, platforms and other information, address the National Secretary.

HENRY KUHN.

61 Beekman street, New York City.

Authorized Agents for THE PEOPLE.

HARTFORD, CONN.: Fred Herrmann, 2 State street, top floor.

BUFFALO, N. Y.: Peter Steemann, Jr. 20 Guilford street.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.: Geo. F. Whaley, Socialist Headquarters, Room 11, Myers building.

UTICA, N. Y.: K. F. A. Nitzeck, 16 Columbia street.

LYNN, MASS.: John A. Henley, 45 Green street, rear.

ST. LOUIS, MO.: Henry J. Poellin, 210 College avenue.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.: G. Remond, 205 State street.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.: J. Rummel, 310 18th street.

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.: Clinton H. Pierce, 49 Wethersfield street.

PATERSON, N. J.: John C. Burroughs, 100 Broad street.

PITTSBURG, PA.: J. S. Bergman, 20 Congress street.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.: Max Keller, 1016 Hope street.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.: Lawrence Lee, Box 206, Olneyville, R. I.

NEW YORK CITY: Austin Boudreau, 49 Locust street.

BALTIMORE, MD.: E. T. Mayumber, 1224 Christian street.

THE RISING TIDAL WAVE.

The Masters—the rank and file—are being heard; and in unmistakable notes, too; and through the regular channels, besides.

The enlarged list, as it stands, Wednesday, the 2nd instant, of the Party organizations that have reported to the National Executive Committee, in its unqualified support and in equal condemnation of the reactionist conspiracy that it overcame, is appended below:

STATE COMMITTEES.

Colorado.

Indiana.

Maryland.

Massachusetts.

Minnesota.

Michigan.

Missouri.

New Jersey.

New York.

Ohio.

Pennsylvania.

Rhode Island.

Texas.

Virginia.

Washington.

ALABAMA.

Section Birmingham.

ARIZONA.

Section Phoenix.

COLORADO.

Section Denver.

Section Leadville.

Section Pueblo.

CONNECTICUT.

Section Hartford.

Section Milford.

Section New London.

Section Rockville (American).

Section Rockville (German).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Section Washington.

ILLINOIS.

Section Jacksonville.

INDIANA.

Section Indianapolis.

Section Muncie.

Section Richmond.

KENTUCKY.

Section Louisville.

Section Newport.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Section Boston.

Section Everett.

Section Lawrence, Br. 2.

Section Lynn.

Section Salem.

Section Somerville.

Section Stoneham.

MICHIGAN.

Section Detroit.

MINNESOTA.

Section Duluth.

MISSOURI.

Section St. Louis.

NEBRASKA.

Section Lincoln.

Section Omaha.

NEW JERSEY.

Section Essex County.

Section Passaic County.

NEW YORK.

Section Albany.

Section Auburn (American and German branches).

Section Buffalo.

Section Pleasantville.

Section Sing Sing.

OFFICIAL.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Henry Kuhn, Secretary, 61 Beckman
street, N. Y.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY OF CANADA—National Executive Committee
Secretary, George Moore, 61 Ryde street,
Montreal.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS COMPANY
167 East 23rd street, New York City
(The Party's literary agency.)

NOTICE.—For technical reasons, no party
announcements can go in that are not in
this office by Tuesdays, 10 p.m.

To the Members of the Socialist
Labor Party and the Friends
of the Cause.

On Monday, July 10th, at about midnight, an armed gang of ruffians, organized by the "Volkszeitung," tried to seize the office of the Party, and the offices of the Party organs. They were beaten back, the paraphernalia of the Party organization are in safe hands. We shall work right along. But, besides other moneys belonging to the Party, the "Volkszeitung" has now in hand a large sum for PEOPLE subscriptions paid in advance, which, as a matter of course, we shall fill; they are also making every attempt to intercept THE PEOPLE mail, and thus they get more money belonging to the Party, and intended for the Party press. All of this puts us in a position of temporary financial embarrassment. Hence we feel compelled to call upon you, individually and collectively, to give all aid within your power, and give it quickly.

The initial expenditures for setting up a new office are rather large. Do all you can to extend the subscription list of THE PEOPLE published by the National Executive Committee, S. L. P., at 61 Beckman street, Room 365, New York City.

Indulgence is asked for inability to attend to correspondence for a few days until matters are again straightened out.

HENRY KUHN,
National Secretary,
61 Beckman street,
New York City.

DONATIONS TO THE PEOPLE.

Previously acknowledged.	\$311.99
B. Wohlbach, Council Bluffs, Iowa.	2.50
Fred Traum, Council Bluffs, Iowa.	5.00
Max Klettiendienst, Jamaica Plains, Mass.	5.00
Gus Kleinleidner, Jamaica Plains, Mass.	5.00
Collected at the meeting of Section Cincinnati, O.	5.00
City Committee, Section Boston, Mass.	5.00
Danish Branch, S. L. P., Brooklyn, N. Y.	5.00
Balance of a collection for the Kolo-mein (Galicia) "Tales" Weavers, by B. Haker and H. Wohl, committee.	5.00
Section Akron, O., S. L. P.	2.85
F. B. Long, Denver, Colo., S. L. P.	1.00
Lowell, Duxbury, Duluth, Minn.	1.00
Section Denver, Colo., S. L. P.	1.00
Julius Samuels, City, S. L. P.	1.00
Swedish Machinists Union, S. T. & L. A., Newark, N. J.	5.00
John Cook, City.	1.00
Leonard Metz, Newark, N. J.	25
Little Billy, Newark, N. J.	25
John J. Doherty, Newark, N. J.	1.00
Herman A. Schaefer, Union Hill, N. J.	1.00
H. Eisenach, Schenectady, N. Y.	5.00
Section Somerville, Mass., S. L. P.	1.00
Conn., S. L. P.	2.25
H. Birkbeck, Boston, Mass.	1.00
Thomas American, Lawrence, Mass.	50
Robert Larson, Lawrence, Mass.	50
Charles Wilber, Lawrence, Mass.	50
John Howard, Lawrence, Mass.	50
Section Woonsocket, R. I., S. L. P.	4.00
New York State Committee.	100.00
American Branch, Brooklyn, N. Y.	1.00
Geo. Herrnstadt, Jersey City, N. J.	1.00
Total.	\$1,045.84

National Executive Committee.

Meeting held Tuesday, August 1st, with P. Murphy in the chair. The financial report for the week ending July 29th showed receipts \$104.42, expenditures \$104.42.

A Committee was present from the N. J. State Committee, explaining the efforts made by the adherents of the "Volkszeitung" in trying to disrupt the State Committee. These efforts proved futile, but to put an end to this state of affairs, the State Committee requests that Section Elizabeth and Section Hudson County be authorized to reorganize both. In discussion that followed it was held that since Section Hudson County could take care of the traitors itself, it be left to the loyal comrades of that Section to rid the Party of the treasonable element.

WHEREAS, Section Chicago calls for a general vote in a manner that is wholly unconstitutional, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Section Washington ignores Chicago's "demand" for a general vote on the question referred to, and

WHEREAS, Section New York has shown itself abundantly competent to cope with the "Volkszeitung" conspirators, and

WHEREAS, The editor of the Chicago "Worker's Call" for July 22, Section Chicago implies that a "state of anarchy" exists in the party's organization, because the N. E. C. have forced the "Volkszeitung" conspirators to show their hands, and thus dignified the position of the Party, it is recommended that the Sections of the Party retain all funds in the local branches for an indefinite time, thus attempting to cripple the Party at a time when the membership should rally to its support, and

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